Title: Gimmick/Inventions

Objectives: To learn about innovations and inventions developed in response to the craze of the gold rush; To help characters raise money in order to pay for the supplies; To use the writing traits of word choice and presentation.

Materials:

14X24 Newsprint or drawing paper
Black pens
Overheads of advertisements from the gold rush (Klondike
Gold Rush Historic Resource Study, pp. 72-87),
Seattle Post-Intelligencer article, "Things that Worked,
Things that Didn't"

Time: 1 and 1/2 hours (in 3 parts)

Lesson Description:

Students' characters need to make money in order to buy their supplies (outfit). They learn some background information about the products developed during the gold rush, study advertisements from the gold rush, then create advertisements in order to sell a gimmick they have invented.

Part One (Background):

1. Read the following excerpt from Gold! The Klondike Adventure:

The Stampeders often paused on the streets of Seattle to watch street salesmen show off the newest products designed for those traveling north. There were Klondike medicine chests, Klondike blankets, and Klondike electric gold pans. There were portable Klondike houses, which the peddlers told their customers were "as light as air," even with the double bed and special Yukon stove that folded up inside. Dried food was sold in large quantities to future miners who wanted to save weight

and space in their backpacks. Although most of the food was colorless and tasted bad...

Many dishonest merchants made money during the gold rush by selling worthless products or taking advantage of the innocent gold seekers. One Klondiker, Arthur Dietz, stopped on the street to watch a salesman pour some yellow powder from a sack and make a plate of scrambled eggs. Dietz was so impressed that he bought 100 pounds of evaporated eggs for him and his traveling companions. It was not until the group was on its way to the Klondike that Dietz opened the sacks. He realized that the yellow powder inside was really not egg at all. The deceitful salesman had switched sacks and sold him 100 pounds of cornmeal. (p. 26, Rey)

2. Pass out copies of "Things that Worked, Things that Didn't," Seattle Post Intelligencer, Special Edition, September 13, 1990. Instruct the students to look for information regarding gimmicks and inventions created for the miners as they read. For a quick assessment after they've read, have students define the word "gimmick" and identify two gimmicks mentioned in the article.

Part Two (Jigsaw):

- 1. Tell the students they will create their own inventions or gimmicks to sell in order to make enough money to buy the supplies they'll need in the Yukon. In order to sell it they must make an advertisement. Put students in small groups. Give each group one or two pages of advertisements from Klondike Gold Rush Historic Resource Study. Each page has a different theme.
- 2. Assign each group to identify the topic of the advertisements and name one observation about how the advertisements were written and one observation about the layout of the advertisements. Warn the groups they will present their findings.
- 3. Each group presents their findings to the whole class. Have overheads of each page available for students to use during their presentation. List their discoveries about the wording and layout of the advertisements to refer to when they create their own advertisements.

4. Compare a few of the advertisements (select at least one that has few words and one that is too wordy). Have students identify which advertisements they think would be more effective than others. Have them explain why. Point out the importance of word choice and how the words and images are laid out. In general, advertisements that are too wordy are less effective than adds that keep focused on a single clear message and leave enough white space so the eye doesn't get overwhelmed.

Part Three (Creating Gimmicks):

- 1. At this point invite the students to think of their own inventions or gimmicks to sell. Hand out the large newsprint. Using pencil, students should sketch out their ads, paying attention to lettering size and style. When students are satisfied with the advertisement give them a black marker (Sharpies work best) to outline all wording and drawings.
- 2. Post the completed advertisements.
- 3. Have students examine the completed ads and reflect on which adds they find attractive or powerful. Tell the students to turn to a neighbor and share one thing they think they would do differently if they could redo their ad.

TEACHER NOTES: Creating your own advertisement in advance to show as an example can really help the students envision what the finished ad may look like. Keep a few of the students' ads to use as examples for next year---both strong and weak examples. This lesson can easily be broken into three parts and spread over three different work periods.







Advertising

During the gold rush, businesses on the West Coast used the word "Klondike" to sell everything from opera glasses to evaporated food. The following pages include examples of advertising that appeared in newspapers and city directories from San Francisco to Vancouver, British Columbia, during the years 1897-1898.

Sources for these advertisements include the following: The Seattle Daily Times, The Seattle Post-Intelligencer, The Tacoma Daily News, The Morning Leader (Port Townsend), and Vancouver News-Advertiser, 1897-1898.



Yukon Gold Fields, Alaska.

Clondyke!

THE NORTH AMERICAN TRANS-PORTATION & TRADING COMPANT'S

Steamer Cleveland

Leaves Seattle Aug. 5,

Connecting at St. Michael's with elegant gives atommers direct for the mines. For rates and further information apply at the company's office, six First avenue, fleatile.

Alaska Supplies.

The Best for the Least.

Winship Bros. Co. Inc.,

Cor. Western Ave. and Madison St. Two Blocks North of Depot.

How to Get a Good Outfit Cheap

Is what puzzles most everybody. We can furnish you with the best outfit at less cost than you could obtain it e ewh re.

Winship Bros. Co. inc Ploneer Outfitters.



If You Are Going To Get An Outfit

What's the use of putting it off till the last minute and then rush around excited and forget a great many important things.

Although we are busy day and night, and seiling more ALABKA DUTFITS than any firm in this city, we are prepared to put up the largest orders on a few minutes' notice. Honeyer, we advise every body intending to favor us with their orders to leave them with us as carly as possible.

COOPER & LEVY

ALASKA OUFITTERS,

M and les Pirst Avenue South

Sattle Wash.

Klondike Equipment and Services

Among the goods advertised were asbestos-lined Yukon stoves, Klondike insect-proof masks, and frost extractors.





GEM STUDIO, 1322 Pac. Ave., Tacoma

Risdon Iron Works,

GOLD DREDGING MACHINERY

FOR YUKON AND KLONDIKE.



Our Mining River Dredge is just the thing for placer mining in Alaska. Shipped knowked down and, if desired, erected,

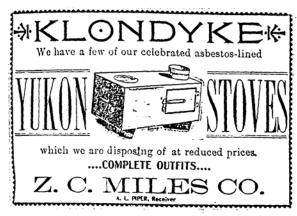
running order.

We also manufacture all kinds of Fremenheel Boats. Mining at 3 Milling Machinery, Engine and Soliera, Evant Parent Hydraulo Elevators and Hydraulo-Glants, Water Wheels and Sheet fron Histerd Pips.

Office and Works: Howard and Beats Mts., San Francisco, Cat.



Alaska Novelty Mfg. Co., Tacoma



KLONDYKE BOATS

Write to V. R. PEIRSON, 221 Cherry Street, Seattle, about your knock-down boats. We always have them ready in time.





COTTON DUCK.

AMES & HARRIS,

MANUFACTURERS AND IMPORTERS.

Jas. S. Gary & Son

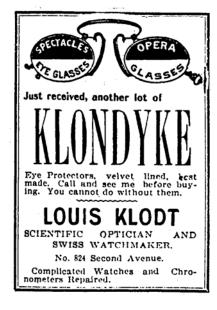
100-104 Sacramento Street, , 10-12 North F

SAN FRANCISCO. CAL.

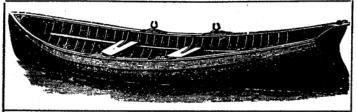
, 10-12 North First Street, PORTLAND, OR











SEATTLE BOAT FACTORY

G. V. JOHNSON & SON, Propr's

.....BUILDERS OF.....

Steamers, Launches, Yachts, Row Boats Canoes, Yawl Boats and Spoon Oars

We Keep Constantly in Stock Yawls, Life-Boats and Row-Boats

.....WE BUILD KLONDIKE BOATS......

Railroad Avenue, One-Half Block So. of Charles St.

SEATTLE, WASH.

Outfits for the Klondike

Some companies offered one-stop shopping by providing complete outfits. Cooper and Levy, one of the most heavily advertised outfitters, warned gold seekers that "you are going to a country where grub is more valuable than gold." This company also ran advertisements showing hapless miners who outfitted with "greenhorns," which left them stranded in the Far North with inadequate provisions.









"The Gold Fever Is Raging"

And we are working night and day putting up the very best outfits that money can buy—outfits that will make you glad when you get there. We have put up miners' outfits for years, and can give you some good, healthy advice as to what you should and what you should not take.

See to it that your bill of fare is well balanced—not too much of this and too little of that, as the chances are against your evening it up to your satisfaction when you get to the

KLONDYKE



Klondike! Klondike!

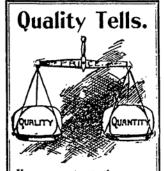
ALASKA

Goldseekers' Outfits

At wholesale and retail, complete in every detai, sold by us; we carry a large stock of every line of goods used for a complete outfit, which we are selling at most reasonable prices. All goods guaranteed as represented; we are experienced hands in the business and know what a miner requires, and how to pack it. Before selectin your outfit we invite you to inspect our stock.

Waterman & Katz 🖁

PORT TOWNSEND, WASH.



If you are going to the

KLONDIKE

Be sure that your

OUTFIT

Is of the best quality and properly packed. We can turnish it.

CONNER BROS.

720 Second Ave. Boston Block.

The Klondike

ARE
YOU
GOING?

If so, remember that the

ONLY HOUSE IN TACOMA

doing an outfitting business exclusively

The Alaska Outfitting Comp'y

KLONDIKE OUTFITS.

CLOTHING AND SUPPLIES OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

Not the cheapest, but only the very best goods at very low prices.

NATIVE ALASKA DOGS FOR SALE.

THE MACDOUGALL & SOUTHWICK CO.

Union Steamship Co. of B. C.

LIMITED COL

HEAD OFFICE AND WHARF,

VANCOUVER, B. C.







NORTHERN SETTLEMENTS.

S. S. Comox sails from Company's wharf every TUESDAY, at 9 a. m. for Bowen Island, Howe Sound, Sechelt, Jervis Inlet, Froeck, Texada Island, Lund, Hernando Island, Cortez Island, Read Island, Valdez Island, Shoal Bay, Phillips Arm, Frederick Arm, Thurlow Island, Loughborough Inlet, Salmon River, Port Neville, and sails every FRIDAY, at 3 p. m., for Way Ports and Shoal Bay, calling at Bute Inlet every six weeks.

NASS RIVER AND WAY PORTS.

S. S. Coquitlam sails on the 8th and 22nd of each month for Naas River and Way Ports, and will proceed to any part of the Coast should inducements offer.

MOODYVILLE AND NORTH VANCOUVER FERRY.

Leaves Moodyville at 8, 9.15, 10.45 a. m., 12 noon, 2, 4, 5.45 and 7 p. m. Leaves Vancouver at 8.35, 10, 11:20 a. m., 1.15, 3.15, 5.15, 6.20 and 7.30 p. m. Calling at North Vancouver each way, excepting the noon trip. Late trip Saturday and Sunday, leave Moodyville 7 p. m., Vancouver, 7.30 p. m.

CLONDIKE GOLDFIELDS.

Steamers to DYEA for the YUKON COUNTRY during the Season.

Freight Steamer "Capilano," capacity 300 tons d. w

Tugs and scows a ways available for towing and freighting business. Large storage accommodation on Company's wharf.

Telephone 94 P.O Box 771.

H. DARLING, MANAGER.

Transportation to the Klondike

Businesses such as the Alaska Steamship Company advertised "ample room for horses and freight," along with "first-class meals for all."



ALASKA CLIPPER

The Miner's Koute

No Stock to Sell

Our ships are alloat and ready for business.

No Vessels to Build

Passengers and freight by staunch sailing vessels for all Alaska points at reasonable rates.

Small steamers and mining machinery taken as freight.

BENJAMIN HAVNER, Manager

Rooms 1, 2 and 3, Gross Building,

TACOMA, Wash.



Going to the



TAKE THE

WILL LEAVE SEATTLE

FOR SKAGUAY AND DYEA

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 11th

Good Accommodations. First-Class Meals for All. Ample Room for Horses and Freight.

STRONG SHIP, QUICK AND SAFE PASSAGE ALASKA STEAMSHIP CO.,



Ticket office N. W. corner First avenue and Yesler way, under First National bank



Clothing for the Klondike

As one advertisement indicated, "The Skagway winds blow hard and cold and reach the bones thro' blankets, woolens and mackinaws." Clothing was an important purchase for Klondike stampeders.





John E. Kelly, The Seattle has EXTRA HEAVY KLONDIKE UNDERWEAR for WOMEN as well as MEN First Ave., Union and University Sts., under the Vendome Hotel.



STEWART & HOLMES DRUG CO.

thro' blankets, woolens and mackinaws.

BUCKSKIN STOPS 'EM-

So say those who have returned. We have the buckskin suits for big lunged. men and plucky women.

SOFT, WARM AND IMPERVIOUS

703 First Ave.

YOU WILL NEED A PAIR OF THESE

When You go to the

KLONDIKE

Alaska Footwear



SEATTLE is the only place to outfit and get just what you will need. We carry a complete stock of Alaska Footwear of every description, including Miners' Boots, Shoes and Rubber Goods, Moccasins, Leggings, German Sox. Felt Boots with thers. etc.

San Francisco Shoe Co.

Hear the Prices Drop Alaska and Clondyke Wearing Apparel.



The best is none too good



FOR

FAIR

CO TO

When you go to Klondike you need a stock of

Pure Fresh DRUGS

Our Klondike Medicine Chest contains the purest and best assortment of drugs on the market.

ST. JOHN'S PHARMACY, 938 Pacific Avenue, Tacoma.

Pharmaceuticals for the Klondike

Medicine cases and drugs were widely advertised during the gold rush. "You will be tired and sore," one advertisement for liniment noted. Another advertisement used humor: "Klondycitis is very prevalent disease which cannot be cured by medical science."



Go to Alaska Prepared For Emergencies...

Stewart & Holmes Drug Co.

703 First Avenue.

Your Klondike Outfit.



to be correct MUST have our

Perfected Emergency

Medicine Case

Being the LIOHTEST and altogether the CHEAPEST case on the market. As it contains no liquids the danger of freezing or breakage is eliminated.

Each remedy is the best for its particular purpose known to

OMPLETE,
OMPACT ENE

Our long experience in trade with Alaska miners has ma us familiar with their wants-hence our ability to furnish a

medicine case as nearly perfect as possible.

We also have Concentrated Vinegar, Evaporated Lime
Juice for scurvy, and Saccharin 50; times sweeter than sugar. Apply for prices in any quantity to

& HOLMES DRUG CO.

Wholesale and Ketail Druggista.



KLONDYCITIS

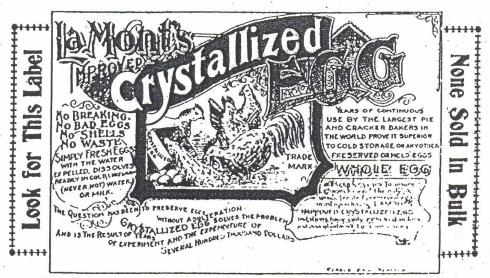
Is a very prevalent disease which cannot be cured by medical science. We have unusual advantages which enable us to make the ailment one of pleasure. Come and see us before going North.



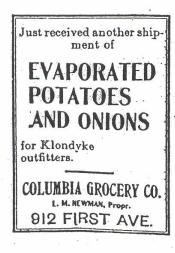
Cor. Second Avenue and Columbia Street.

You Will Be

Siwash Liniment has helped others over the journey, why not you? Cures Lame Back, Soreness, Still Joints, Sprains, Bruises, Neuralgie Pains, etc. For sale by leading druggists and by Chas. Kimball, Dawson City.



INFRINGEMENTS WILL BE PROSECUTED AND FULL ACCOUNTING DEMANDED.





Your Life May Depend upon your getting the very best Groceries if you are going to the

Klondyke

Our goods are the VERY BEST and we pack them with the UTMOST CARE.

COLUMBIA GROCERY CO.

L. M. NEWHAN, Propr.

912 FIRST AVE.

Food for the Klondike

"Your life may depend upon your getting the very best groceries," one advertisement warned gold seekers. Evaporated food was heavily advertised, and LaMont's frequently ran advertisements for crystallized eggs, prompting challenges from Hall's, a competitor.

Advertising in Tacoma

The longstanding rivalry between Tacoma and Seattle intensified during the Klondike Gold Rush. These advertisements from Tacoma touted the "City of Destiny" as the "best place on Puget Sound." One Tacoma company offered investments in mining "better than Klondike."

TACOMA

The

Best place

LIVE IN, INVEST IN, MAKE MONEY IN

City of Destiny

A judicious investment in real estate here now cannot, in my judgmen fail to be profitable. Tacoma is growing and will continue to grow, and real estate must advance in value from present low prices.

For particulars concerning desirable invostments in Tacoma real estate, call on or address

ALLEN C. MASON

Room 2, Mason Block, TACOMA, Wash.

ESTABLISHED 1883.

Better than

Klondike

are investments in REALTY and MINING in the State of Washington. Choice list of Business, Residence, Acres and Farm Property in Tacoma and Pierce County.

MINING A SPECIALTY—Stocks for sale in all reliable companies.
HOUSES RENTED, TAXES PAID, and entire charge taken of property.

For further information call on or address

Daniel McGregor,

16 Years Residence in the State.

301 Washington Bldg., Tacoma, Wash.



Elder-down Sleeping Bags and Hoods. (These are the best for cold weather). We have fitted out a great number bosind for the Gold Fields, and our goods have been used by most prominent expeditions and have given entire satisfaction.

We have the largest and most varied stock in Canada.

TENTS—(Our own special make), double or single as required. Finished sp MINERS' TOOLS—The latest on the market. FOLDING STOVES (with cooking Shot Guns, Revolvers, Rifles See our latest, Rifle and Shot

Ask for our \$12.00 OUTFIT. Tent, Stove, Stool, Cooking Utensils and Waterproof Sheet. Complete outfit for one main.

Headquarters-34 and 36 Victoria Square MONTREAL, CANADA.

'Sonne" Awning, Tent and Tarpaulin Co.

The Klondike stampede created geographical confusion. This advertisement for a Canadian company was more appropriate for an African outfit than an outfit for the Klondike.

COURTESY TERRENCE COLE

Advertising in Canada

Canadian companies advertised "no duty" for Klondike goods purchased in British Columbia.

YANCOUVER, B. C. ≫≪ YICTORIA, B. C.

Granulated, Cube and Bar



IN 50 LB. 20 LB. and 10 LB. PACKAGES

THE YUKON

GLONDYKI

If you want all the news, reliable, accurate and full, subscribe for the

Steamers arrive every few days. Don't let the opportunity slip by.

Subscribe Now.

The Weekly Post-Intelligencer, \$1.00 Per Year.



Clondyke! Clondyke! Clondyke!

GET THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE KLONDIKE

A LL THE NEWS of the Yukon Gold Fields is published in the TACOMA DAILY and WEELLY NEWS, If you have relatives or friends on the Klondike, get the latest news about them by taking one of these papers.

The Dally News, per month - \$.50 | The Weekly News, six months \$.75 | The Dally News, per year - \$.00 | The Weekly News, one year - 1.25

"P.-I."

Clondyke Extra.

READY THIS MORNING.

Contains a summary of all the latest news, maps, interviews, etc., relating to the great Alaskan Gold Fields. Procure your copies at Business Office of the Post-Intelligencer. Price 5 cents. Special rates given on large orders. Every reader of the Post-Intelligencer should send this Special Clondyke Edition to his Eastern friends and those making inquiries about the new Eldorado.

8 PAGES—ALL CLONDYKE.

v.

Newspapers used the Klondike Gold Rush to sell subscriptions.

32-Page Edition

The Scattle

The Three circulates 13,001 13,001

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, SATURDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 18, 1897.

Seattle & Salanda Salanda and the State of Washington, and the gateway to the pacific—the matepoins of the State of Washington, and the gateway to the gold fields of Alaska and the Klemdike—the chied outling point for mitters, and and Bloth Columba and Skapany and Disposance to sightly per cent. of all the salandard project per sent of all the salandard project per sent of all the salandard project per sent of the Kleptike, as well as the all-water roots via the Dutch Corp. Se. Michael and the Vision special field than ex-Renardsco. 200 miles nearer than Portland, Oregon, and staturers plying between State and trapped field make Victoria and Vancouver mere way station.

**THE Underland of the Nineteenth Century": a region of Jabolous mineral wealth, with 150 of the salandard of the Nineteenth Century": a region of Jabolous mineral wealth, with 150 of the Nortland of the Nineteenth Century": a region of Jabolous mineral wealth, with 150 of the Nortlandard project of the Nortlandard of the Nineteenth Century": a region of Jabolous mineral wealth, with 150 of the Nortlandard of the Nineteenth Century": a region of Jabolous mineral wealth, with 150 of the Nortlandard of the Nineteenth Century": a region of Jabolous mineral wealth, with 150 of the Nortlandard of the Nineteenth Century": a region of Jabolous mineral wealth, with 150 of the Nortlandard of the Nineteenth Century": a region of Jabolous mineral wealth, with 150 of the Nortlandard of the Nineteenth Century": a region of Jabolous mineral wealth, with 150 of the Nortlandard of the Nineteenth Century": a region of Jabolous mineral wealth, with 150 of the Nortlandard of the Nineteenth Century": a region of Jabolous mineral wealth, with 150 of the Nortlandard of the Nineteenth Century": a region of Jabolous mineral wealth, with 150 of the Nortlandard of the Nineteenth Century": a region of Jabolous mineral wealth, with 150 of the Nortlandard of the Nineteenth Century": a region of Jabolous mineral wealth, with 150 of the Nortlandard of the Nineteenth Century":

During the gold rush, newspapers helped link Seattle, Alaska, and the Klondike in the public mind.

THE SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER	
£205.	SPECIAL CLONDYKE EDITION.
	CLONDYKE RICHES FREE YES, ROOM FOR ALL
GLONDYKE.	STIRS 4 MATION. The Rink Hade there's the Residue to Review to State Country to the Residue to Review Country
	The second secon
MOPER & LEVY TOLE	The second secon
DESCRIPTION CASCAL TO COMMENT. THAT MAIN PRODUCT. CALANSS SERVICES. A PROTUCT. A PROTUCT. THAT A MOUAL DAY OF A PROTUCT. THAT A MOUAL DAY OF A PROTUCT.	
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2] [[CLEMENTE
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an Francisco Shoe Co	7 5.5 (2.1-1)
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A SOL MAILS & SECOL SEL	

INNOVATIONS & INVENTIONS

New challenges called for new thinking in Seattle during the Gold Rush. Although hucksters made money preying on the adventurers, many improvements came with the race north.

THINGS

he list of potential supplies that could be used in the Yukon was endless. Outfitters soon discovered that any product saring the magical word "Klondike" sold quickly, here were Klondike evaporated foods, Klondike er, Klondike elothes, Klondike stoves and even becial Klondike medicine kits.

The general feeling that gullible stampeders ould buy anything attracted a wide variety of condence men and shady operators. They promoted a assortment of useless paraphernalia and getch-quick schemes.

The ultimate gimmick was stock being sold in te "Transalaskan Gopher Co." - a firm that plan-ed to train gophers to retrieve gold nuggets aderground.

elow are some of the Gold Rush "inventions" that dn't live up to their billing:

e bicycles

as or steam powered sleds utomatic gold pans year's supply of food dehydrated to weigh 13 s. (one year's supply normally weighs 1,200 lbs.)

Portable cabins and sawmills Slot machines that took nuggets instead of coins Boat-sleds An X-ray machine that could identify buried gold

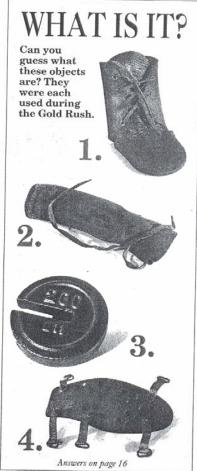
But not all the innovations that came out of the Klondike Gold Rush were designed to fool the buyer. There were also many successful improve-ments and inventions that came out of the drive for gold:

Improved food canning and drying techniques
Use of sled dogs by non-native Americans
Mass media and advertising strategies
The concept of "outfitting," or simply placing an
order with on vendor for all your Klondike needs.
Improved mining techniques

How were stampeders cheated?

he negative end of outfitting included the substitution of cheaper items for the more expensive models selected (early bait-and-switch techniques).

From the book "The Klondike Fever" comes the story of one mining party: "A party bought 100 lbs. of evaporated eggs from an agent who poured some yellow powder out of the suck and cooked it before their eyes to demonstrate his honesty. It tasted like scrambled eggs. But when the party reached Alaska and opened the sack, they discovered that the salesman, by sleight of hand, had substituted yellow cornmeal."



SAUL BROMBERGER/P-I photos

WHAT WOULD YOU INVENT

What would you take to live in a tent on frozen ground for a year?

NEW TERMS Drifting

Because the ground was frozen all year around miners would thaw out dirt under their cabins by building fires. During summer they would wash out the prepared dirt.

Can you find the word on these pages?



A bout midnight we had a very exciting experience. We awoke and heard dreadful cries of "Murder! Murder! Help! Police!" So we rushed to the door and peeked out, but all we could see were hands, arms and feet in a real scramble.

Then we heard three shots. It was a burglar and one of the guests of the hotel, who was now near the stairway. The burglar got away and rushed out of the house.

The police were called, but did not get him. That was the last we saw of him. We did not sleep much more that night. The next day we took our baggage and went over to the other hotel.

One morning we climbed a

hill near Skagway. The road was steep, but the flowers, ferns and scenery were beautiful.

When we reached the top, we came to a large reservoir that supplies Skagway's drinking water. Reid Falls and the Skagway River were among our other visits. Twelve days spent in this way soon passed. We did not care very much for Skagway because it was so muddy and windy, but some of the scenery was beautiful.